General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 December 2002

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 66 (*i*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/57/510)*]

57/61. Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994, 50/70 F of 12 December 1995, 51/45 C of 10 December 1996, 52/38 F of 9 December 1997, 53/77 AA of 4 December 1998, 54/54 U of 1 December 1999, 55/33 M of 20 November 2000 and 56/24 D of 29 November 2001,

Recalling also that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1] adopted by consensus at the first special session devoted to disarmament, which included the Declaration, Programme of Action and Machinery for Disarmament,

Bearing in mind also the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Taking note of paragraph 145 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[2] which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I.

Taking note also of the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1999 substantive session[3] and of the fact that no consensus was reached on the item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",

Desiring to build upon the substantive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the heads of State and Government during the United Nations Millennium Summit held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000,[4] in which they resolved "to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers",

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] regarding the views of Member States on the objectives, agenda and timing of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended working group, working on the basis of consensus, to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, taking note of the paper presented by the Chairman of Working Group II during the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission as well as the reports of the Secretary-General regarding the views of Member States on the objectives, agenda and timing of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

2. *Requests* the open-ended Working Group to hold an organizational session in order to set the date for its substantive sessions, and to submit a report on its work, including possible substantive recommendations, before the end of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide the open-ended Working Group with the necessary assistance and services as may be required to discharge its tasks;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

57th plenary meeting
22 November 2002

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] A/57/120.